

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Thus, claim 1 has been amended to insert language about how the polyaniline-containing composition is prepared, i.e. by dissolving or dispersing a polyaniline in a monomer mixture including a vinylpyrrolidone and an acid group-containing monomer as an essential monomer component, and emulsion-polymerizing the resulting mixture. This language is supported by the description in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment should be entered even though it is being submitted after a final rejection, since the amendment is responsive to the Examiner's argument on page 6 of the Office Action that the combination of known prior art components according to known methods yields predictable results and establishes a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Amended claim 1 further distinguishes the claimed invention from La Fleur et al. by incorporating language, concerning the process for preparing the composition, which is not disclosed in this reference.

The patentability of the presently claimed invention, after entry of the foregoing amendment to claim 1, over the disclosure of the reference relied upon by the Examiner will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

Thus, the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over La Fleur et al. (US '399) is respectfully traversed.

La Fleur et al. do not disclose a polyaniline-containing composition prepared by dissolving or dispersing a polyaniline in a monomer mixture including a vinylpyrrolidone and an acid group-containing monomer as an essential monomer component, and emulsion polymerizing the resulting mixture. In La Fleur et al., an intrinsically conductive copolymer is prepared by preparing an emulsion latex in a medium; forming a mixture by adding at least one cyclic heteroatom-containing monomer to the emulsion latex in the medium under a first condition effective to maintain the emulsion latex in a first stabilized emulsion state; causing the monomer(s) in the mixture to polymerize under a second condition effective to produce the conductive copolymer in a second stabilized emulsion state; and optionally, recovering the intrinsically conductive copolymer (column 1, line 65 – column 2, line 8).

Thus, the present invention, as set forth in amended claim 1 above, is different from La Fleur et al. in the respect that a monomer mixture including a vinylpyrrolidone and an acid group-containing monomer is emulsion-polymerized in the presence of a polyaniline in the present invention, whereas aniline monomers are polymerized in the presence of an emulsion latex in La Fleur et al.

In the case that aniline monomers are polymerized in the presence of an emulsion polymer, like in La Fleur et al., the polymerization reaction of aniline is very slow, giving only a polyaniline of low molecular weight, which thus often gives a coated film of insufficient conductivity. In addition, it is necessary to add a large amount of a dopant for production of a polyaniline in the doped state that forms a stable liquid mixture with the polymer emulsion, which results in the problem of deterioration in the water resistance of the coated film obtained from the polyaniline-containing composition (see page 1, line 5 from the bottom to page 2, line 8 from the bottom of the present specification).


La Fleur et al. is practically equivalent to Comparative Example 2 described in the present application, in the respect that aniline monomer is polymerized in the presence of an emulsion polymer. Superiority of the present invention over Comparative Example 2 is explained in the specification, particularly below Table 1 on page 17.

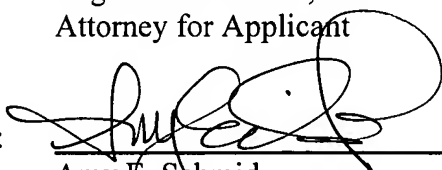
For these reasons, Applicant takes the position that the presently claimed invention is clearly patentable over the La Fleur et al. reference.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is submitted that the ground of rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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